The Levite

The Magazine of the JOHN WATSON CLUB

The Levite

Editor—GEORGE D. S. FORSYTH, M.A.

AUTUMN NUMBER 1935

CONTENTS

	PAGE
F. Rex Dilly	3
The Garden Fete, 29th June, 1935	3
Curiosity and Figures	5
John Watson Club—Final Financial Statement of Garden Fete	6
Round the Stalls	7
Solution of Town Puzzle Competition	7
Changes in the School	9
The Highland Ceilidh	10
Mr William C. Dudgeon, W.S.	10
The Supplementary Sale, November, 1935	11
Extracts from the "Term Review"	12
Girls' Page	17
Club Talk	18
Sir William Campbell Johnston	19
The Week-end Camp at Culross, July, 1935	20
A Letter from F. R. Dilly	23
Colonel J. O. Donaldson's Response to F.P. School Fund Appeal	24
Farewell	24

Published in SPRING *and* AUTUMN

One Copy Gratis to Member
Other Copies, 6d. each

F. R. DILLY.

F. REX DILLY.

Every member of the John Watson Club must be very interested in the personality of Rex Dilly, whose photograph appears on the opposite page. As Assistant Secretary he has done most valuable work for the Club, and he has built a splendid foundation for its future by his activities in the School and his personal knowledge of the younger former pupils. Undoubtedly, however, his greatest success and triumph was his magnificent achievement as Organiser of the Garden Fête, which raised almost £700 for the benefit of John Watson's.

Rex Dilly entered the School in 1921 and left in 1928. He did not continue his education, but went into business, and is now a commercial traveller. Though only twenty-two years of age, he has already reached a responsible position. He is full of unbounded enthusiasm for anything he undertakes, and this quality, which has served him so well in his occupation, has also, most fortunately for the Club and John Watson's, been directed to their advantage.

Rex has amazing vitality and energy. Every leisure moment is expended on his old School. Night after night he is writing letters to former pupils, and on Sundays he goes to the School with some other keen "Levites" and they and the present pupils hold the "Old Boys' Hour."

It is no exaggeration to say that for the last two years Rex has been the mainspring of the Club. Mr D. M. Thomson (let us rather say "D. M. T.") sacrificed the leisure hours of many years of his life for the Club and the School, and it seemed impossible that anyone so unselfish, so whole-hearted, and so enthusiastic, could be found in our midst. In Rex there is such a man and no greater tribute could be paid. The success of the Fête is a living testimonial to his worth.

THE GARDEN FETE, 29th JUNE, 1935.

I am asked to write about the Garden Fête of the 29th June, 1935; in fact I am ordered to write about it. What do I do? Write the orthodox account of garden fêtes—"In brilliant sunshine, before a large gathering, Miss Horsbrugh, M.P., opened a Fête in the Grounds of John Watson's Institution. In a few well chosen words, which were punctuated by cheers and applause, she outlined the objects, etc." No! I don't write an orthodox account, and mainly because this was no ordinary garden fête. To describe it requires special treatment, and special treatment it shall have.

For three "Levites," at any rate, the excitement of the fête began on Euston platform at 10 a.m. on the 28th June. Would I recognise the other two? I hadn't seen them since 1911. Of course I did, and I don't suppose the eight hours between London

and Edinburgh have ever passed so quickly or pleasantly. We were all three to stay with the Club's energetic Secretary. On presenting ourselves at the address which appeared on his note paper used for Club correspondence, incredibile dictu, the door was opened by damsels, but very scantily clad, who looked just as surprised as we did. "Was this No. 11 Napier Road?" It was. "Did Dr. Muirhead live here?" Looks of blank astonishment followed by giggles. It was all very well, but we began to wonder whether our Secretary lived a kind of Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde existence. By this time the news that three strange gentlemen were suggesting that they were going to stay at No. 11 percolated through to the nether regions of the house. All was well. This was the former address of Dr. Muirhead (with true spirit of economy he had been using up the old supply of note paper). "Would we go through the garden?" So, looking like three commercial travellers, we passed through the garden at the back where a gathering of people divided their attention for the moment between an exhibition of Morris dancing (hence the scantily clad damsels), and the strange apparition of three men with suit cases very self-consciously wending their way through the garden to a door leading to where the Secretary really lived. By this time, gentle reader, you're wondering what all this has to do with the garden fête. Just this. It set the standard of our enjoyment of the fête. From that moment to our departure laughter and merriment were the order of the day. With such a send off, how could the fête fail to be a success?

After dinner, we *had* to go down to J.W.I. We just couldn't keep away. What a scene of activity! Dilly, rushing about producing order out of chaos; someone emitting the strangest of noises out of a loud speaker; faces peeping out of the dormitories (the nine o'clock rule was broken that night); groups of "Levites" talking and discussing; Miss Gellatly holding a small reception; Major and Mrs Naismith running hither and thither. "Would it be fine?" "Would anyone come?" "I don't think my stall will sell anything!" "Good heavens, it's passed eleven thirty." Back to bed, for there's much to be done in the morning.

29th June was a glorious day, and the weather was fine. Away to J.W.I. early. Still more activity. Stalls springing up—Dominion stall, Girl's Club stall, "Levite's" stall, Director's stall, cocoanut shies, cake stalls, ice cream stalls; it was like the market of a London suburb, or the bazaar of an Eastern city. What laughter! What goodwill! "Do you think 3s. 6d. is too much for this?" "Don't charge too much, keep the prices just nice and attractive!" "Fancy this 'Levite' from India sending us this tea!" If ever there was a living demonstration of the co-operative spirit working for a common cause, it was there in the grounds of J.W.I., on the morning of 29th June.

"Would anyone come?" The problem soon became one of whether there would be room for all who were pouring into the

grounds. Miss Horsbrugh, M.P. for Dundee, opened the proceedings with a delightful speech. Then, like a swarm of locusts, the assembled mass descended on the stalls. The shrewd buyer soon spotted the bargains. The present generation of J.W.I. concentrated on the cakes, sweets, and ice cream. Everyone bought something. Meanwhile, there were other attractions. The band of the Queen Victoria School, Dunblane ; Daniel Stewart's College Cadets' Pipe Band ; a gymnastic display by the boys, a remarkable evidence of the value of physical training in producing the healthy mind in the healthy body ; exhibitions of Highland dancing and singing, in the Large Hall ; looking at the view from the top of the School ; and so it went on till 7 p.m., a great and happy party.

Surely 29th June, 1935, was ample reward for the whole-hearted enthusiasm of all those " Levites," male and female, of all the staff and present generation of J.W.I., of the parents, of the Directors, who were determined to show that he best helps who helps himself. J.W.I. was going to set its house in order. " Levites " were going to see to it that it would be no fault of theirs if the opportunities they had had were not made available for future generations. They had a debt to discharge. They paid in full. Well done everybody ! "Would they buy?" Well someone spent. The Fête made a net profit of £700.

G. 8, 1911.

CURIOSITY AND FIGURES.

Curiosity, we are told, is a vital factor in the acquirement of knowledge. Perhaps some " Levites " are curious to know a little about the inner workings of the Fête organisation.

Figures fascinate us. In this twentieth century of chaos they seem to be the only dependable things left. Our Victorian predecessors cared nought for them, but we, children of a later age, glory in their apparent realism. It consoles us to think of Mr Bernard Shaw in his eightieth year. We love to reckon the parish mortality in percentages, or estimate the distance of the stars in light years.

The grand achievement of the inner organisation was the despatch of 15,000 circulars. Ministers, doctors, lawyers, professional men in the city, friends and neighbours of the School were all informed about the Fête. 6500 Town Puzzles were sent out. £10 worth of half-penny stamps were licked (many of them Jubilee editions) to satisfy the requirements of Sir Kingsley Wood. 300 letters were received from a' the airts. 10 stalls and other occupations provided work and worry for 200 workers. Committees and Sub-Committees were formed and dissolved as rapidly as modern Cabinets.

To what end was such ant-like energy directed ? The end was the seeking and the entertainment of one of the biggest crowds that the School grounds have ever witnessed. A thousand people responded to the appeal.

In the sweltering heat of the afternoon—a " beaker full of the warm south " was scarce enough to quench the thirst of this mighty crowd. £10 worth of aerated waters (at 2d. a bottle) and 22 gallons of ice cream were our artificial antidotes to the bite of the sun. " Tea for 200 at a time " was the motto ruling the activities of the Tea Committee.

Edinburgh Ecclesiastics were kind enough to contribute forms and chairs in order that 1500 seats might be available in the park for the gym display.

A word might be said about the splendid work done by the girls and boys of the School in the preparation and distribution of circulars for Blackhall and district. In 2½ hours 30 girls and boys, working at top speed and with an enthusiasm that would have shamed many an F.P., prepared 7000 circulars for distribution. 5000 of these were later distributed by squads of boys kindly provided by the Headmaster.

£700 were raised as a result of this remarkable demonstration of loyalty to the old School—in other words, as many pennies as would form a chain from the base of Mount Everest to Camp 3.

F. 6, 1930.

JOHN WATSON CLUB.

GARDEN FETE (29th June, 1935),
and SUPPLEMENTARY SALE (16th November, 1935).

Final Financial Statement—subject to audit.

	Fete.	*Sale.*	*Total.*
Cake and Candy	£129 0 0	—	£129 0 0
Ceilidh	6 10 0	—	6 10 0
China and Glass	110 15 0	£4 5 0	115 0 0
Dance	10 10 0	—	10 10 0
Entrance	31 12 3	0 17 9	32 10 0
Fancy Goods	58 4 9	19 5 3	77 10 0
Fruit and Flowers	22 10 0	—	22 10 0
Handkerchief	18 0 0	—	18 0 0
Home and Dominions	27 5 8	1 14 4	29 0 0
Household Goods	32 11 10	1 18 2	34 10 0
Levite	7 9 5	1 6 7	8 16 0
Parcels	1 11 4	0 3 8	1 15 0
Pound	22 0 0	—	22 0 0
Puzzles	51 2 0	—	51 2 0
Soda Fountain	15 0 0	—	15 0 0
Side Shows	16 0 0	—	16 0 0
Teas	40 5 6	7 14 6	48 0 0
General Account	91 1 0	3 16 0	94 17 0
	£691 8 9	£41 1 3	£732 10 0

N.B.—These figures represent surplus after deduction of expenses and may yet be subject to slight alteration. Overhead expenses were borne by the General Account.

ROUND THE STALLS.

The stalls all looked so interesting that the easiest way seemed to go right round, beginning at the one nearest the entrance, which was the Fruit and Flower stall, run by the staff. This proved to be so popular that it was sold out early in the day. The Parcelling and *The Levite* stalls were next. There was a special *Levite* on sale, dealing with otherwise neglected aspects of the School.

The China stall was presided over by Mrs Fairweather, representing the Directors, and it had a tasteful display of tea sets, Venetian glass and all kinds of China and glassware. The Home and Dominions stall had a very varied collection sent from every corner of the world. Here were Indian handkerchiefs and baskets, Chinese games, Canadian trinkets, and a large South African fur.

The Glasgow Old Girls' stall had a decorative display of every kind of handkerchief, and the Fancy Goods stall, convened by Miss Gellatly, for the School, was a treasure-trove of every kind of knit-wear and fancy work.

The next stall was the ever-popular Cake-and-Candy one, which alone took £130, largely due to the efforts of Mrs Naismith, who spent a great deal of time and trouble on it.

By the time these stalls were passed and something bought at each, it was a relief to find that the next two were more economical. They were both run by the Old Girls. One was the Pound stall, selling pounds of tea, sugar and other necessities ; the other was the Household stall where one could buy tin openers, fish slices, dish-cloths, soap, everything for the house.

The last stall was the Old Boys' Soda Fountain, placed very conveniently between the stalls and the amusements. It need hardly be said that this stall was extremely popular.

One independent effort deserves special mention, that of Teddy Morison, who had done two lino-cuts of the School and was selling them framed.

K. W.

SOLUTION OF TOWN PUZZLE COMPETITION.

1= Miss L. F. Grant, 2 Craiglockhart Terrace, Edinburgh.
1= Miss M. E. Black.

3= Miss M. E. Black.

4= William J. S. McKinnell, Cowan House, George Square, Edinburgh ; Miss D. Neill, 20 Bangholm Bower Avenue, Edinburgh ; Miss C. M. Houston, 4 Lauder Road, Edinburgh, 9 ; Keith R. H. Wardrop, The Manse, Biggar ; Joseph Smith, 16 Knowle Lane, Darwen, Lancashire ; Eric Ros Birkett, 52 Drum Brae North, Barnton, Midlothian ; Miss May Richardson, 11 Braidburn Crescent, Edinburgh ; Miss M. Duthie, c/o Miss McGregor, 26 Forbes Road, Edinburgh ; D. A. Shepherd, Caversham, Gullane ; Muriel E. Black, 3 Alnwickhill Road, Edinburgh.

Special Prize awarded to the best solution from a Present Pupil. Robt. McEwan—7 errors.

(1) Destroys him	Wrexham.
(2) The highwayman's town	Andover.
(3) Stale bacon	Oldham.
(4) This should be a busy place	Workington.
(5) A navvy's implement being burnt	Barrow-in-Furness.
(6) Anne. L. Bud (*Anag.*)	Dunblane.
(7) Article of clothing	Cardigan.
(8) A change here	Altringham.
(9) A sporting Spaniard	Huntingdon.
(10) There's such a college at both Oxford and Cambridge	Pembroke.
(11) Painter of the " Blue Boy "	Gainsborough.
(12) Miser Fud (*Anag.*)	Dumfries.
(13) A ride to here much sung of	Bangor.
(14) A joyous town	Blyth.
(15) Its tearin'	Ripon.
(16) Sort of a puzzle this	Limerick.
(17) Never bring coals here	Newcastle.
(18) R. U. Tosh (*Anag.*)	Thurso.
(19) An affected manner	Ayr.
(20) No drunkards here	Drymen.
(21) Famous piece by Handel	Largo.
(22) Of excellent quality	Stirling.
(23) A pebbly harbour	Stonehaven.
(24) Big red hun (*Anag.*)	Edinburgh.
(25) It this is so the lamp won't last long	Wicklow.
(26) Sure an' begorrah it will float	Cork.
(27) Duplicating	Dublin.
(28) Part of a ship	Hull
(29) Should be a milky place	Cowes.
(30) A busy bee	Busby.
(31) On a long journey	Forfar.
(32) The Fair City	Perth.
(33) Not nice to be sent here	Coventry.
(34) Nearly worth five shillings	Dollar.
(35) People on the watch	Leuchars.
(36) Tom nos er (*Anag.*)	Montrose.
(37) A barrel maker	Cupar.
(38) Asses do this	Bray.
(39) Famous Irish rose	Tralee.
(40) Sins never (*Anag.*)	Inverness.
(41) Finished, a large concern, and what an angler uses	Dunfermline.
(42) A nincompoop	Duns.
(43) The " Braw Lads " home	Galashiels.
(44) An inexperienced Arctic bird.	Greenock.
(45) The den of a ferocious animal	Bearsden.
(46) Not small	Biggar.
(47) The side where butter is made	Chirnside.
(48) A female church	Ladykirk.
(49) Springs of water near the sea	Wells-next-Sea.
(50) Don't under-cook	Bakewell.

CHANGES IN THE SCHOOL.

The efforts of the Former Pupils in the Garden Fête resulted in a substantial sum of money being available for School improvements and, aided by a grant from the Directors, this has been utilised to bring about many alterations. Former pupils visiting the School will be greatly impressed by what has been already done, and for the benefit of those who are unable to see for themselves, the following account will give some idea of the metamorphoses.

The Drilling Room has been entirely re-floored and the wall has been panelled to a height of six feet. The pegs in the Brushing Room and the pigeon holes have been removed, while four wash-hand basins occupy the position of the bunker in which the footballs were kept. In the far corner of the room a window has been made. The old Wash Room off the Brushing Room now contains new water-closets. Lockers are to be placed in the room at a future date. The Wardrobe Room, where we had our hair cut, has been gutted, and is to be made into a Recreation Room. The bars have been removed from the dining-room windows and the wire gauze in front of the windows has been made to open outwards so that in summer, during mealtimes, the windows may be open and the boys may have a view unobstructed by wire. On the way out to the park, by the side door, it used to be necessary to pass the old water-closets. These are now partitioned off, for a new door to the park has been made where the janitor's press room was.

Leaving the ground floor and coming to the middle floor, visitors to the School will find further changes. A wireless set has been installed in the Chapel, and there are loud-speakers connected with it in the classrooms. The old forms in the First Section have been replaced by individual chairs, and the Headmaster's study has been redecorated. In the Science Room (formerly the Second Section), the tables have been cut into two parts each, and placed lengthways across the room, so that all face the master. Along the corridor there are new lockers, in which the boys' school books are kept.

On the top floor lockers have been placed and every boy has one for himself, in which to keep his own clothes. In both the boys' and girls' bathrooms a window has been made to allow an exit for the steam on bath nights. The girls' bathroom has been cubicled and the spray has been removed to the boys' cold plunge room. A new composition floor, pink in colour, has been laid in the Girls' Wee Room. To match this, the room has been re-decorated in pink, and there are six new beds.

All these improvements will be a source of pleasure and gratification to those who organised and to those who supported the Fête. They should be an inspiration to further efforts on behalf of the School, to which all " Levites " are so much indebted.

THE HIGHLAND CEILIDH.

It was a very mixed audience that gathered in the School Hall on the 29th of June at the Highland Ceilidh. To one of Lowland upbringing, but who has spent much of his holidays in the Highlands, this Ceilidh was very interesting, but at the same time I found myself wistfully thinking of days spent amongst the Isles.

Miss Jean Bruce, to whom we are indebted for producing the entire Ceilidh, began by telling us about the Tweeds. Miss Bruce not only explained to us how the Tweeds were dyed, but actually showed us examples of the cloth. These were draped round the stage and were varied both in colour and in texture. Many of us will remember the amusing incidents of which Miss Bruce had such a store to tell us.

We were then privileged to watch the shrinking of the Tweed, a process known as "Waulking the Cloth." The women-folk sat round the table, and taking the Tweed in their hands, they stretched it and rubbed it with a curious rhythmic motion, passing it round at the same time. During this process one of them would sing an opening phrase, and the rest would reply in chorus. The waulking songs have to be heard to be appreciated. No one present was untouched by their spell. From time to time one old woman would test the cloth and would then remark in Gaelic that it was hardly ready yet, and once more to another haunting air the process would continue.

We were also favoured by Gaelic songs which were beautifully rendered, but which must have lost something in that probably few in the audience could understand them. However, nobody with any Highland blood in his veins could have failed to appreciate the "mouth-music" which proved very popular; I should say that before long all of us were keeping time, unconsciously, with our feet. The break of time between reel and strathspey was very arresting.

To Pipe-Major Douglas's stirring strains we watched Highland Dancing, without which the evening had hardly been complete. Personally, I liked the dancing as much as any part of the evening, but then I always have contended that Highland dancing was finer than any other dancing I have seen—certainly it is more difficult than most, and more interesting to watch; but I am far from the Ceilidh.

That it was a very successful evening none who was present would deny. To me it was more; it was a beautiful experience.

IAN T. MORISON.

Mr WILLIAM C. DUDGEON, W.S.

The School has suffered a great loss in the death of Mr William Dudgeon, W.S., who was Treasurer of the School from 1924 till his death in the summer of 1935. To the bereaved we express our sincere sympathy. He has been succeeded by Mr C. F. McLauchlan, W.S.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY SALE, NOVEMBER, 1935.

Indoor sales of all sorts start life with a bad reputation. For the most part they are the practical outlet for the energies of a mothers' meeting. They are eternal accumulations of tablet, stale buns and tea cosies. They occur as regularly as rheumatism on damp Saturday evenings. Their horizon is the cracked plaster and dingy woodwork of provincial church halls.

The Sale at J.W.I. was a brilliant contrast to the time-honoured jumble sale. Here was no stuffy intolerant bartering, here was the warm fellowship of common enjoyment.

The Sale was graciously opened by Lady Johnston. In asking Lady Johnston to open the Sale, Mr Fairweather referred to the great work that she and her husband had done for the welfare of the School. Professor Wedderburn, on behalf of the Company, thanked Lady Johnston for her kindness in opening the Sale.

The goods were attractively displayed in two classrooms, at the South End of the School. Fine glassware of varying colour and utility caught the eye. Glass and china begged purchase with their dazzling blues and glinting facets. Woollen articles for every type of domestic and personal need suffused colour and warmth through the room. Tin openers and potato peelers on the domestic stall shrieked for adoption among the kitchen ware of many buyers. Toilet and kitchen soaps whispered a solemn warning about cleanliness being next to godliness. The Library was a miniature Bodleian. First editions were cheap at six shillings. Sir Walter Scott rubbed shoulders with other members of the literary craft, Nat Gould and Edgar Wallace. Towards the end of the Sale lovely irresistible tomes changed hands at twopence. Parcels were twopence each. The Special Editions of *The Levite*, handsome looking in their rich red and blue covers, could be bought at the Editor's stall.

The teas were a great success; neatly arranged and attractively served, they provided an opportunity for companionship and chatter, which neither the earlier commercial period nor the later entertainment, could afford.

We thought we had already done good business with our shilling, but our organisers kept whispering, " the best is yet to be." The musical and dramatic programme was still to come.

A very fine programme was given by individual performers and by the Dramatic Society of St. George's West. Our hearts responded to the passion of song. Our wonder was excited by the melody and the mastery of the hand-bells. Our eyes, though nimble, were not fleet enough to follow the subtle evasions of the conjurer.

St. George's West Dramatic Society presented a very amusing, exuberant, and stimulating cosmopolitan farce, entitled, " Browne with an E." Thus the entertainment closed. Excelsiora had

David and Donnerwetter the fire-eating German said good-bye to oratorical fireworks and became as meek as a lamb.

Sale, tea and entertainment at one shilling, this sounds like a slogan of enticement to join a church guild, it seems "like the baseless fabric of a vision," but it was true. A shilling took us in and brought us out unscathed.

Mr Tombleson and A. D. Murray must be complimented on their admirable stage management and enviable initiative.

The boys and girls of the School worked with a will in constructing the stage and arranging accommodation. To them we owe our thanks.

Supplementary sales are rare events, but the fates decree that they will be very, very pleasant. We might call our Sale with some aptitude, "The Adventures of a Shilling."

F. 6, 1930.

EXTRACTS FROM THE "TERM REVIEW."

THE JUBILEE WEEK-END.

About ten days after we came back this term, the Jubilee Week commenced. We were allowed to go home for the week-end, and on the Thursday night before it, the boys went to a Fireworks Display at Inverleith Park. Although staying at School, the girls had a splendid view of the Castle, the Calton Hill, Corstorphine and Inverleith from the School roof.

I think we must have been queer-looking objects sitting up there on the slates, muffled up in overcoats on top of dressing gowns, for we had put on "absolutely" anything as long as it would keep us warm.

As I have already said, our view of the Castle was splendid, and I nearly turned squint-eyed in attempting to watch "stars" floating over St. Mary's Cathedral, "rockets" rising from Inverleith, and "ferns" from some other direction!

The following night at home, I went to Inverleith to see what the bonfire on the Calton Hill looked like from there. But 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning found us all trooping up to J.W.I. to start class again, after a week-end of lovely weather and enjoyment.

N. T. (II. Up.)

"AS YOU LIKE IT."

I think it happened in Paris.

A famous pianist, much more showman than musician, was giving a recital. A critic, who had suffered untold agonies all evening, at last could bear it no longer, and, rushing from the Concert Hall

to the Post Office, he despatched the following telegram to the musician :—" I have turned in my grave—Beethoven." Beethoven may have turned once ; Shakespeare is always turning, revolving round and round like a top ; but he rested from his turning on the evening of 1st June, 1935. I really mean that. When the pupils of John Watson's produced " As You Like It," they played it as Shakespeare would have liked it.

I was asked to come and see it as the " man in the street." Well, I came. I left the street and entered the Forest of Arden. The hands of time swung back and I was living in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth. It was one of the great surprises of my life. I have seen this play, again and again, but never have I been tricked like this. I entered the hall after the play had begun and at once knew that these children had created a miracle. They made the illusion, and that is what matters. I might spend time criticising and analysing bits of the performance, but that would not detract from the miracle. They made me forget my charming companion, the hard seat and the hot air. I was *living* in the Forest of Arden.

The general factors which made this play live were the properties and the absolute sincerity of the actors. The production must have been good, or its weakness would have intruded and broken the spell. As it was, nothing but the curtain broke it. Properties, by which I mean everything on the stage including scenery and costumes, have to serve a decorative and practical purpose. The form and colour of the back cloths in this play were utterly satisfying. The white cloth with the symbol of two trees had real beauty ; because beauty comes from simplicity, outline and form being more important than elaboration.

Such is the general impression which remains with me after the lapse of some time. During the intervals I made rapid notes, which are given now more or less as I made them.

All the actors should take up their cues more quickly, and try to remain quite still, instead of fidgeting when they are not speaking. The speaking is good. When listening to someone, the actors should look at the speaker, and not allow their eyes to roam on to other objects, or the audience. The entries might have been executed with more grace and the laughter, which with weeping is the most difficult thing to do on the stage, was too mechanical.

Of the minor parts, I should say that Sir Oliver Martext was an excellent piece of low comedy and could not have been better. Audrey could have been much more gawky, but William looked his part perfectly. The fight between Charles and Orlando was a treat.

To go on to the more important characters :—Jacques might have said, " More, I prithee, more," less distastefully, but he is certainly to be congratulated on the very natural and sensible way in which he delivered his speech. " All the world's a stage."

Duke Frederick was capital and Touchstone played his part most intelligently.

Much more I could say, and in praise of the actors, but space does not permit. Acting is a great art, and the basis of all art is sincerity. The producer and the actors in this play created a work of art, because they were sincere. W. A.

THE SCHOOL SPORTS.

Saturday, 25th May, was the day chosen for the Annual Sports, and on the previous Friday there was much excitement, for all were wondering if it would be a good day. I think the old saying should be changed to "A red sky at night is the schoolboy's delight," for great were the cries of joy when on Friday night a wisp of red sky was seen near the horizon.

Saturday dawned gloriously sunny and warm, and all breathed freely. In the morning the usual preparations were made and at noon we all went into dinner. Not much was eaten then, and afterwards the athletes betook themselves to bed.

At 2.30 p.m., the time appointed for the start, we had quite an encouraging number of visitors. The younger children's events were run first, followed by the Open 100 Yards. P. Teele and M. Brymer ran a dead heat in the girls' race, and A. Loudon reached the tape quite safely in the boys' race. The 220 Yards and the 300 Yards came next and the runners proved themselves to be in excellent training. The Girls' Broad Jump was the next item, and M. Brymer showed herself worthy of filling the first place. Similarly did S. Scroggie prove that he excelled the rest of the boys ; and so we passed on to the High Jump, and after a good performance by the girls, with E. Kincaid as winner, we saw one of the most spectacular events of the day—the Boys' High Jump. The winner of this event was J. Scroggie, who showed himself to be the best high jumper we have had by clearing 4 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches—a record. The next event, the Half-Mile, was won by Sydney Scroggie, who evidently wished to show his twin that he was not the only one who could create records, for he ran this race in 2 minutes $26\frac{3}{16}$ seconds —the second record of the day.

The remaining events were relays. The Ravelston boys won their relay ; the Belford girls won theirs, whilst the Dean, not wishing to be altogether out of it, won the Mixed Upper and Lower School Relays. As to the Three-legged Race, I can say but little, for you must see it before you understand how wild and fantastic are the efforts of the victims to reach that tape. Of those who managed to finish the race, Ian Finlay and Celia White were the first. The last event of all was the Old Boys' Race, and as there were so many handicaps in this race one cannot state the distance, but the winner was A. Kinghorn.

After tea we assembled in the Porch to witness the presentation of prizes by Mrs Naismith. Once again the boys must thank the F.P. Club for their prizes, and the girls have to thank the Directors for theirs.

The results were as follows :—Ravelston—97 points. Belford —44½ points. Dean—43½ points.

S. Scroggie of Ravelston was School Champion again, and for the second time won the School Cup, with A. Loudon as runner-up.

M. Brymer was the Girls' Champion and D. Mackenzie was the runner-up.

Under 13 years B. Walker was the Champion Boy and C. Mackie the Champion Girl. J. Heard and Sheila Maclachlan were the best under 11 years.

On the whole it was a very successful day with four records broken, viz., the High Jump by J. Scroggie and the Half Mile, the Mile and the 440 Yards all by S. Scroggie.

After the presentation of prizes, some went to see the Infirmary Procession, whilst others stayed at home to play with the F.P's. ; but in every case, when bedtime came, we were pleased to rest and think (aloud) of the very enjoyable day that had passed.

H. L. M. (III. Up.)

BOYS' CRICKET.

1st XI. Fixtures.

				For	*Against*
Apl. 27th	Heriot's 6th	A	L	37	117
May 1st	Tynecastle 1st	H	W	117	25
,, 11th	Leith Academy 2nd	H	W	87	51
,, 18th	Edinburgh Academy 6th	H	W	47	10
,, 22nd	Boroughmuir 2nd	H	W	75	25
,, 29th	Institution 3rd	H	L	35	71
June 1st	R.H.S. 3rd	H	W	87 f 9	16
,, 5th	Watson's under 15½	H	L	24	74 f 5
,, 8th	Broughton 2nd	H	W	44 f 3	18
,, 15th	Old Boys	H	L	70	110
,, 22nd	Heriot's 6th	H	W	161 f 3	17
July 6th	Institution 3rd	A	L	57	81
,, 13th	Craigend under 15½	H	D	32	32

Played 13. Won 7. Lost 5. Drawn 1.

We started this season with a full fixture list and hopes of a success, if not equalling last year's at least not falling short of it. Alas for our hopes ! Out of 19 matches no fewer than 6 had to be scratched or abandoned on account of rain. " Nets " and practice games for the same reason suffered to almost the same extent. In addition, the Captain, F. S. Miles, was unable to play during the first fortnight owing to Chicken Pox, and no sooner was he back than J. Scroggie, a good bowler and reliable batsman, injured his

thumb at a Gymnastic Display and was unable to play for the greater part of the term. Probably the only record broken in the season was the number of matches scratched, and the team cannot be held responsible for it. The fielding was not as good as it should have been and the weather cannot be blamed entirely for it.

Miles as captain and J. Scroggie as vice-captain performed their duties efficiently, the former making quite a successful wicket-keeper during the latter part of the season. J. C. M. J.

THE OLD BOYS' MATCH.

The day of the Old Boys' Match turned out beautiful in the morning, rained heavily before dinner and cleared up just an hour before the game, so that we were able to start at 3 p.m., as arranged.

The Old Boys were represented by a very strong team captained by Dr. Muirhead. Winning the toss, I sent our opponents in first, who opened with Sandy Booth and S. Barnett. The former played back and hit his wicket when only two runs had been made. The next batsman was also soon out, although Barnett was still scoring at a good rate. At 37, he was fifth out, having scored 33 himself. Then 39 for 6, 42 for 7, but a stand came which completely turned the tables. Dr. Muirhead and Mr G. Forsyth came together and at once showed they were not to be put out so easily as the others. I kept changing our five bowlers about in quick succession, without result, although Lawrence, our slow, leg-break bowler, did give them a little trouble by making the ball turn rather more than they bargained for. At last Mr G. D. S. Forsyth, now 29, played a fast one from Brodie on to his wicket. Soon after Dr. Muirhead very sportingly decided to retire after having made a valuable 24, and the innings ended at 110 all out. Jack Scroggie had the best bowling average, having taken 3 for 12. Brodie had been very useful, as his fast bowling had kept the runs down very well. Altogether we had done very well to dismiss them just after they had reached the century.

In the interval we had the customary feast in the Chapel, so kindly supplied by the Old Boys and catered for by Miss Gellatly.

Requiring over 100 to win, we started our innings against the fast bowling of Tony Marshall and Mac Campbell. The first wicket fell at 11, and with Jack Scroggie and McKerron in, it looked as if our plight were not so desperate. They started to play the bowling with comparative ease, and the score began to mount steadily, until at 33, Jack Scroggie was bowled by Barnett and McKerron was fifth out at 55, having hit a very good 22. The remaining batsmen nearly all did a little. S. Scroggie started well by hitting a 6 off one of Noel Morrison's slow balls, but the batsman who hits a 6 goes out next ball. In the end we were all out for 70, 40 runs behind the F.P's. yet quite a good score against a team we very rarely manage to beat. F. S. M. (III. Upper).

GIRLS' CRICKET.

June 1st	Craigmount	H	W	103	18
,, 22nd	Gillespie's	H	W	42	53
July 6th	Esdaile	A	L	36	62
,, 9th	Gillespie's	A	L	49	60
,, 20th	Cranley	H	W	66	65

We have had a very unfavourable season this year owing to bad weather and also to the fact that the team has shown very little enthusiasm. What is needed is more effort during the practice games, but the new members of the team are promising and will be more experienced next year. There have been few fixtures this term, for almost every Saturday has been filled up with other events, such as the Garden Fête. Even our annual fixture with the Old Girls had to be put off.

The fielding is a great deal better than the batting ; but I *do* hope that next year's team will be more successful, and will remember to try harder next season in their practice games.

D. MACKENZIE, *Capt.*

GIRLS' PAGE.

The holiday months, August and September, very often bring visitors from afar.

The visitor this year, in September, was Annie M. Watkins, "Levite" of 1888, about whom inquiries have often been made. Her friends will be glad to hear news of her and also that she is now a member of the John Watson Club. She lives in Los Angeles, California, and is Mrs R. T. Brain, of 3201 West 43rd Place, in that city. Her interest in the old School was intense, even though holiday time found it at some disadvantage on this her first visit since her school-days there came to an end !

All of us, who claim some interest in the successes of former John Watson girls, must have felt proud that the name of one of them, Jean D. Bruce, figured in the King's Birthday Honours' List, for the M.B.E.

The honour is well deserved, for a fuller, busier life than hers in the interest of the well-being of others, is not lived by many women.

Not only the interests of the crofter folk, whose work is the special interest of the Highland Home Industries of which she is Organiser, but all Rural Industries come within the circle of the wide experience, gained from abroad as well as at home, of Miss Jean D. Bruce.

The Murray Memorial Bursary of £5 has been awarded this year to Jean White, and will enable her to take a commercial course, leading on, we hope, to the Civil Service.

CLUB TALK.

On the 3rd May, 1935, a Flannel Dance was organised by Miss Kathleen Morrison to raise funds towards the postages in connection with the Garden Fête. As a result of this very enjoyable function a sum of £10 was raised, and we feel very grateful to Miss Morrison for the great amount of hard work she accomplished in order to bring about this achievement.

The Fête was a great bond of union between the Club and its members. U.S.A., Canada, Mexico, China, India and South Africa sent their contributions to the stalls, and the enthusiasm of the members abroad was as great as of those at home.

The Club is very grateful to Miss Jean Bruce, M.B.E., for the gift of a duplicator, which was a sine qua non during our great venture of the summer.

Hardie Watkins, who was a civil engineer, lost his life in the San Francisco earthquake of 1913. He was staying in one of the town's hotels at the time. He was a clever cartoonist. Perhaps someone of those who may remember him, may also remember if he showed promise in that direction in his J.W. school-days.

The Rev. D. A. McRury, M.A. (1916), has left Fort-William and is a chaplain to H.M. Forces in India.

M. R. Henderson (1929) graduated with honours in Modern Languages at Oxford University, this year. He is now Language Master in Giggleswick School, West Yorkshire.

At Edinburgh University Summer Graduation W. L. Orr (1929) was capped B.L. and Gavin R. Millar (1930) M.A. The latter is now studying medicine.

Wallace Chapman (1925) and W. Malcolm Miller (1927) are in their final year of medicine at Aberdeen and Edinburgh University respectively. J. M. M. Campbell (1930) is studying Science at Edinburgh University.

Ian White (1924) has been promoted to the position of Accountant of the Clydesdale Bank at Old Kilpatrick. His brother George (1925) has taken his place at Larbert.

J. W. Orr (1929), captain of Fettes last year, gained a residential scholarship of £100 a year for four years at St. Andrews University Bursary Competition. He is now playing for the University 1st XV.

A. T. Muir (1933), who is in the mercantile marine, has left on a fourteen months' trip, and will not be back until next October.

J. O. Pearson (1929), who has been with the Salvesen Line for over five years, has now returned from sea to study at the Leith Nautical College.

R. G. Scott (1931) was a very successful bowler for Edinburgh Academicals 1st XI. this summer.

The following Former Pupils are keeping up the J. W. tradition for producing Rugby players :—J. W. Orr (1929), St. Andrews University 1st XV. ; G. D. S. Forsyth (1916), J. Mac Campbell (1930) and G. R. Millar (1930), all in Moray House 1st XV. ; A. D. Murray and R. B. Scott, Edinburgh Northern 1st XV. ; P. G. Smith (1934) Hillhead H.S.P.P. 1st XV. ; S. Scroggie (1935), Harris Academy 1st P.P. ; C. Grant (1933), Boroughmuir 1st P.P. ; and R. A. Inglis (1933), George Watson's College 1st P.P.

We should like to remind " Levites " at this time of the year that wraps in the Club colours are available from J. C. Smith, Ltd., Lothian Road, Edinburgh, price 7s. 6d. Club ties, price 4s., can be obtained from F. R. Dilly, 58 Polwarth Gardens.

The Annual Reunion and the Annual Dinner take place on the 4th January, 1936, and it is proposed that in the summer of 1936 another Jaunt should be held, similar to that to Aberfoyle in 1934.

The London members are going to make arrangements to meet one another from time to time.

In Glasgow the Girls' Club is very much alive and the Old Boys are keen to do something, but men are so difficult to amuse, at least so the ladies say. An excursion to Inverkip was held in the summer to raise money for the Garden Fête.

Sir WILLIAM CAMPBELL JOHNSTON, LL.D.

It was with very great regret that the former pupils received the news of the resignation of Sir William Campbell Johnston from the office of Deputy-Keeper of the Signet. None of us will ever forget his splendid leadership of the Directors in the protracted negotiations with the Endowments' Commission concerning the future of our School. The ultimate success which crowned the Directors' efforts was to a very great extent due to him. Readers will remember the appreciation we expressed in the Spring Number of *The Levite*, 1934. Though he is no longer the Principal Director of the School, we feel assured that he will continue his great interest in and friendship towards John Watson's.

To Mr E. M. Wedderburn, D.K.S., his successor, we accord a hearty welcome and express the hope that the same cordial relations, which have always pertained between the Directors and Former Pupils, will continue.

THE WEEK-END CAMP AT CULROSS, JULY, 1935.

" There is a feeling in the air, a tone in the colour of a cloud, which hits your fancy."

Hazlitt.

A sentiment such as this was in the thoughts of all those who attended the week-end camp at Culross this year. Seventeen of us, eleven present and six former pupils, noted the changing colours of the clouds and revelled in the freshness of the Fife coast. The weather was very kind to us ; only one morning was at all dull. The rest of the time the sun shone brightly on sea and shore. We were under canvas from Friday afternoon till Tuesday morning, more than three days of swiftly passing enjoyment.

I shall try to describe the chief features of camp life—what we did during the day, which ones out of our number provided amusement for the others, who ate most in the grubbing tent, and one or two events which all of us who were there will remember for ever.

Reggie Henderson (known to his contemporaries as Jackie Coogan) an F.P., who has for many years now been imbibing the nauseous spirit of English Public School and 'Varsity life, was an officer at camp. Every morning, punctually at 5.15, he could be seen by the watchful eye, leading a mythical bathing party down to the icy waters of the Forth. On one or two occasions, however, the mythical bathers became real flesh and blood. The bathers at camp were more Sun than Water Babies !

The cooks were early at work trying to coax the glowing embers of the night before into useful activity. As they bent to their task, they could hear subterranean snoring coming from the sleeping hosts under canvas. The first flames from the fire crackled beneath a huge potful of water for the porridge. Need more be said about breakfast preparations ? Within two hours the sleeping figures were alert, ready to attack the steaming porridge as only school-boys can. Bacon once said, " Reading maketh a full man." All campers agreed that the sage made a mistake. Only camp porridge could possibly do such a thing ! The funny thing about breakfast is that it is always breakfast (except, of course, on the Continent). Porridge, bacon and eggs, or sausages in some form or another appear with terrifying monotony. Nowhere is this observation more true than at camp. The store tent was always crammed with bushels of meal, rashers (or is it streaks) of bacon, thousands of eggs and yards upon yards of sausages !

Breakfast over, the cooks settled down for the day, only too painfully aware that for them it would represent a succession of furious bursts of energy with quiescent periods for dish-washing ! For those not immediately occupied as cooks or orderlies, the day presented more favourable prospects. Walks, cycling, bathing (see above), curiosity in all its branches, the Kincardine Road Bridge,

the historical ruins of Culross, trespassing in its more legitimate forms, visits to the village tuck-shop—all these were popular. In short, all things were sought after, which provided the means of whiling away the time between one meal and another.

As the sun went down over Grangemouth and the tall masts of the Scottish Regional Radio Station stood out against the dying light, short talks were given by the older fellows on some aspects of the Christian life. All were gathered round the camp fire, now blazing its brightest. The talks gave way to reminiscences, to bursts of song (call it what you will), to happy and sometimes inane laughter.

It was now late and moreover the midges were itching to have a bite. So all retired to bed. Experiences during the night at camp are always entertaining. The Earth suddenly becomes a notably hard Mother, blankets retreat before the attacks of insect hordes, snorts and snores of varying pitches and intensities rise to heaven in a chorus of sustained praise, feet upon which so much trust is placed during the day become a bane at night, for the Arctic chill can penetrate at least three pairs of stockings. In the matter of blankets and covering, the policy most in favour depended on the Scriptural Dictum, "To him that hath, it shall be given and from him that hath not shall be taken away even that he hath."

It now remains to speak of some particular camp happenings and to recall the behaviour of particular campers.

On Saturday afternoon Major Naismith paid a very welcome visit to camp. After a slight delay in the arrival of the milk, we did our best to entertain him at tea. Escorted to the village by a number of retainers, the Headmaster very kindly took these to Culross Palace, a notable ruin. An evening 'bus carried him homewards.

A new feature in camp, this year, was an entertainment organised for our hosts, Dean Harper, Mrs Harper and their family. Up to this point our hosts had been consistently kind to us. Besides making us welcome to the ground, Mrs Harper had satisfied our hunger on one or two occasions by supplying us with fruit and vegetables, picked by herself. The Dean arranged a special service for us on Sunday morning, a service much appreciated by us all. He also showed us over the interesting museum at his own residence, Dunimarle Castle. There he showed us a magnificent collection of Venetian glass, explaining the secret of its popularity and value. He led us into the past by way of Sèvres pottery, old French water colours, Empire furniture owned by Napoleon, and French clocks that had not yet met their Waterloo. Then he let us mount the round tower to the roof, from which a fine panorama of the Forth was obtained. He led us through the Castle Gardens, first along the Italian terrace, bordered with century-old yew trees, and then to

the kitchen garden, bulging with fruit and vegetables. We saw a vine, too, and tomatoes growing in a hothouse. The Dean loved his house, his gardens, his "blessed plot," and in his appreciation of them we joined heartily.

For such demonstrations of kindness we thought it only right that we should do our best to give them an entertainment. So, on Monday night, our last night, our hosts were invited to a concert round the camp fire. It was all very quickly arranged. The dress rehearsals were over in a quarter of an hour. At 7.30 p.m. the Dean and his company arrived in camp to the strains of, "Too-roo-loo-roo-loo, the wee Bulldug, etc." By the time we had reached the 35th verse everybody was happily seated in the glow of a merry fire. The Dean handed round sweets and cigarettes (for the more responsible). The concert proceeded, item after item, to the accompaniment of all manner of snorts and giggles from our number and more conservative marks of appreciation from our guests. When it was all over, the Dean thanked us, mentioning his special approval of the masterly club display by Dudy Ure (performed with a couple of tent mallets) and of the pranks of Reggie Henderson. This latter miraculously transformed himself from an inquisitive Cockney landlady into a fire-eating Hitler, addressing his storm-troopers at the Tempelhof, Berlin. Upon the night stillness the thunder of German oratory could be heard. Lock on brow, feet firm, fists waving ominously, Reggie mimicked the Fuhrer admirably.

The Dean said that we had behaved ourselves in camp and invited us another time to his grounds. Rex Dilly, in reply, thanked the Dean and Mrs Harper for all their kindness to us.

When the guests had gone, we lay full length by the fire telling stories and trying to keep pace with Reggie's enthusiasm for camp songs. We crept to bed quietly on the last night, trying vainly to elude the midges.

On Tuesday morning we struck camp, each to go to his own place.

We extend camp congratulations to:—

A.D.M., for making such vigorous and sustained attacks on fleas, midges, daddy long legs, etc.—A Keating's come to life.

F.R.D. for selling so many copies of the "Daily Worker" and for his unfailing interest and work in camp.

Bobs.—For his unapproached appetite.

Sandy.—For waiting 4½ hours for the arrival of other campers.

Lyle.—For a new cure for insomnia. Treatment—Go to bed with hands and feet strongly bound with rope.

Reggie.—For making such a delightful ass of himself.

When all is said we can only come to one conclusion. "Pity about Campbell, wasn't it?"

GAVIN MILLAR.

A LETTER FROM F. R. DILLY.

58 Polwarth Gardens,
Edinburgh, 11,
14*th December*, 1935.

Dear Friends of John Watson's,

I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to all who gave so whole-heartedly much of their time and their energy to the venture which it was my privilege to organise. It was a very great joy to be working in such a team, and so great was the enthusiasm and will-to-work of every member that any difficulties arising in the organisation were easily surmounted.

I would like especially to thank Mrs Fairweather, Convener of the Directors' Stall, Mrs Naismith, Mrs Muirhead, Misses Bruce, Morris and Muir, the Staff, the parents and the present pupils for their valuable help and co-operation.

Miss Sadler gave great assistance in addressing envelopes and also compiled a list of members of the John Watson Girls' Association, while Misses Edna McGown and Katherine Masterton acted as shorthand typists when the pressure of correspondence became excessive.

Ellis Pitcairn, Robert Ingles, Colin Grant, Stanley Barnett, Gordon Scott, James Dempster, Gordon Johnston, J. M. Mac Campbell, R. B. Scott, R. A. Mackay and Andrew Ogilvie were of great assistance in the sending out of circulars.

A. D. Murray, who organised the Side Shows, also gave valuable clerical assistance and Gavin Millar devoted an entire week of his time, twelve hours a day, to the cause.

No praise could be too high for Miss Kissick and her assistants on the Catering Committee, who organised and carried out a very difficult task in a most efficient and successful manner.

Finally, I wish to thank Dr. Muirhead for valuable advice, which helped me in many difficulties, and Miss Gellatly and Major Naismith, who did everything in their power to make the Fête a success.

To all the above and many others, too numerous to mention, I tender my warmest gratitude.

Yours sincerely,

F. REX DILLY.

COLONEL J. O. DONALDSON'S RESPONSE TO F.P. SCHOOL FUND APPEAL.

As a result of the appeal by the F.P. School Fund Committee, Colonel J. O. Donaldson, of Johannesburg, has promised £100 a year for ten years. In his letter to the Club Secretary, Colonel Donaldson states that it was his intention to leave £1000 to the School and that he had now decided to give this sum in annual instalments during his lifetime. He has made provision in his will for bringing the amount to £1000, if by any chance he should die within ten years. Colonel Donaldson, in his letter, expresses his conviction that it is the duty of every former pupil to repay, as far as possible, the debt owed to John Watson's and he himself has given a splendid example.

FAREWELL.

The Editor spends so much of his time on varied interests that he is only too conscious that he does not devote such care to his office as its importance demands and its readers merit. He bids you farewell with regret and with pleasure ; with regret for the loss of the kindness and friendship received in his capacity as Editor ; with pleasure at his certainty that a better and more whole-hearted successor will be found. To Kenneth Boswell, Gavin Millar and Rex Dilly he owes much of the credit of this, his last, effort and to them, Miss Gellatly and Mr D. M. Thomson he is extremely grateful for very valuable assistance during the years he has had the honour and privilege of editing this Magazine. To his successor, whoever he may be, he expresses his very sincere desire that *The Levite* will be better than it has ever been.

MSS. for the next number should be sent to Dr. A. J. Muirhead, 6 Ettrick Road, before 1st March, 1936, pending the appointment of a new Editor.

Geo. C. Mackay Ltd., *Printers*, 45 Bernard Street, Leith, Edinburgh.